Purely Practical Guide

The Rockefeller Center info you never knew you needed

Truly a "city within a city," Rockefeller Center takes up multiple blocks—its expansive presence is not only at sidewalk level but also way up high, at The Top of the Rock, and down underground, in the Concourse. Though an icon of modernist architecture, with clean lines and clear views, the complex can be a little confusing to the first-time (or even repeat) visitor. Consider this the ultimate answer to your questions of how and where and when—the most specific guidelines to getting around.

Check rockefellercenter.com for directions, maps, tours, restaurants, shops and every other piece of information you might need to best enjoy your time at Rockefeller Center.

Transportation

The most New York-ish way to get to Rockefeller Center is by subway. The 47-50 St/Rockefeller Center stop on the B, D, F and M lines is the closest; the underground station itself spans the three blocks from south (47th Street) to north (50th Street), with multiple staircase exits all along Sixth Avenue (also known as Avenue of the Americas). Remember that when you come above ground to street level, it's easy to orient yourself: Sixth Avenue runs one way heading north, so the streets go up higher in number with the direction of traffic.

The subway station is connected to Rockefeller Center through the underground Concourse (see the map here). As you exit the turnstiles at north end of the station, head straight, past Dunkin' Donuts. After you see Au Bon Pain, and before you hit Starbucks, make a right and head through the revolving doors—now you're in the Concourse! You can take either the left or the right corridor; for Top of the Rock, stay to the left. At the end of the corridors you'll find Rock Center's second Starbucks and you'll see the Skating Rink/Summer Garden & Bar straight ahead; this open area is referred to as the Town Center. Behind you on the right side will be an escalator and stairs that will take you up to street level, and into the lobby of 30 Rockefeller Plaza. On either side of The Sea Grill and Rock Center Café you'll find elevators that will lift you to the Plaza.

For more transportation options, rockefellercenter.com provides bus routes and driving directions. Specific directions to Radio City Music Hall can be found here.

There are a number of CitiBike docking stations near Rockefeller Center, with the closest one at Fifth Avenue and W. 49th Street. Wear a helmet!

Accessibility

The 47-50 St/Rockefeller Center subway station is wheelchair accessible. There is an elevator at the northwest corner of 49th Street and Sixth Avenue; always check with the MTA to make sure it's operating.

Top of the Rock is fully accessible. Enter on 50th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.

This NYC official accessibility guide has much more information on getting around the area.

At the Rock

Rockefeller Center is open to the public daily and has many seating areas both at street level in the Plaza, and underground in the Concourse. Free WiFi is available.

There are public bathrooms in the Concourse, open from 7am till 10pm every day. Here's the easiest way to find them: If you're standing with your back to the Starbucks and looking out onto the Rink/Summer Garden, head to the right. Go past the Swarovski boutique and straight toward 'wichcraft—the women's room is in the back left corner of this area (just past Blue Bottle Coffee), and the men's is to the right, down the hall a bit, beyond First Republic Bank. Restaurants and cafes in the Concourse do not have individual facilities; almost all of the street-level restaurants have bathrooms available for paying customers.

The US Post Office can be tricky to locate: If you start at The Sea Grill in the Concourse, hug the edge of the restaurant toward the right, and walk down the hall a little way. The entrance to the USPS is on the right side of that hallway. At street level, you can enter 610 Fifth Avenue from 49th Street or via the Channel Gardens, and go down one flight of stairs to the post office.

There are several banks located in Rockefeller Center, with 24-hour ATMs available.

Dunkin' Donuts in the Concourse is open 24 hours.

See this street-level map and Concourse map to help find your way around, and look for the wall directories throughout the complex to find your way once on the ground.

Is there any other practical information you need to navigate Rockefeller Center? Ask us on Twitter or Facebook!

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